

In the Accompanying Rule 1.53(b) Application

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Claim 9 (Amended). A multicomponent fiber comprised of two or more components, each of which is comprised of a thermoplastic polymer, wherein at least one component is comprised of [a thermoplastic polymer and particles of a ferroelectric material dispersed therein.]

B2

a thermoplastic polymer; and
primary particles of a ferroelectric material dispersed therein at a level of from about 0.01 to about 50 percent by weight, based on the weight of the fiber;
in which the fiber has been exposed to an electric field in order to reorient the spontaneous polarization of the ferroelectric particles.

Cancel Claims 10, 11, 19, 20, and 22.

Claim 23 (Amended). A method of preparing fibers containing particles of a ferroelectric material, the method comprising:

B3

destructuring the ferroelectric material in the presence of a liquid and a surfactant to give destructured particles, wherein the liquid is a solvent for the surfactant and the surfactant is adapted to stabilize the destructured particles against agglomeration;

forming a blend of the stabilized, destructured ferroelectric material particles and a thermoplastic polymer; [and]

melting the blend of the stabilized, destructured ferroelectric material particles and a thermoplastic polymer; and

melt extruding the molten blend to form fibers[.];
in which the particles of a ferroelectric material are present at a level of from about 0.01 to about 50 percent by weight, based on the weight of the fiber.

Cancel claims 24-40, inclusive, without disclaimer or prejudice. 25, 26, 32, and 33.

B4

Claim 41 (Amended). A filtration medium comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

Cancel claims 47 and 48 without disclaimer or prejudice.

B5

Claim 49 (Amended). A vacuum cleaner bag comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

B5 Cn 11 5w C3
In the Accompanying Rule 1.53(b) Application

Claim 50 (Amended). A face mask comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

Cancel claim 51 without disclaimer or prejudice.

B6
Claim 52 (Amended). A respirator comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

Claim 53 (Amended). A dust wipe comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

Please add the following new claim:

54. A multicomponent fiber comprised of two or more components, each of which is comprised of a thermoplastic polymer, wherein at least one component is comprised of
a thermoplastic polymer; and
particles of a ferroelectric material dispersed therein at a level of from about 0.01 to about 50 percent by weight, based on the weight of the fiber, wherein the particles of the ferroelectric material have been destructured;
in which the fiber has been exposed to an electric field in order to reorient the spontaneous polarization of the ferroelectric particles.

B1
Remarks

The present application is a division of application Serial No. 08/762,213, in which application a requirement for restriction was presented. The present application is directed to the nonelected groups in the earlier application, namely, the groups consisting of Claims 9-18 and 21-53 as represented by the independent claims and selected dependent claims. Various of the claims have been amended to more closely correspond to claims allowed in application Serial No. 08/762,213. In addition, the specification has been amended to identify all predecessor applications. Finally, one new claim has been added to cover a multicomponent fiber in which the particles of a ferroelectric material have been destructured.